

NEW ENERGY ECONOMY HIGHLIGHTS

Gov. Ritter and lawmakers advanced Colorado's nationally recognized New Energy Economy through landmark measures that will bring good jobs, innovative technologies and clean power to communities all across the state.

- **House Bill 10-1001, Renewable Energy Standard and Solar Certification (Tyler/Schwartz & Whitehead).** Increases the state's renewable energy requirement to 30 percent by 2020. Within 10 years, nearly one-third of electricity generated by large utility companies will come from the wind and the sun. This gives Colorado the second-highest renewable energy standard in the country and will lead to 100,000 solar rooftops over the next decade. Creates a certification standard requirement for solar installers.
- **HB10-1365, Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act (Solano & Roberts/Whitehead & Penry).** Requires major utilities to replace, retrofit or retire 900 MW of coal-fired power generation with natural gas or lower or non-emitting fuel by 2018. This will allow Colorado to use its own natural gas resources to create clean power and create thousands of new jobs for Coloradans. It better positions Colorado to handle looming federal air quality regulations.
- **HB10-1098, REA Electric Co-op Board of Director Elections (Levy/Hodge).** Provides for more transparency in REA governance and fairness in REA elections.
- **HB10-1182, Transmission Facilities and Clean Energy Project (Solano/Schwartz).** Places the Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority in a better position to help utility-scale renewable energy developers with the financing of new generation.
- **HB10-1267, Property Tax on Independently-owned Residential Solar (Kerr/Romer).** Allows third party independently-owned residential solar facilities to be exempt from property tax, putting them on an even playing field with homeowner owned systems in terms of property taxation.
- **HB10-1328, New Energy Jobs Creation Act (Miklosi/Schwartz).** Creates a statewide New Energy Improvement District to promote and finance Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs. A county must opt-into the district before its residents can participate in the program. This bill attempts to provide scalability with a statewide program that cannot as easily be achieved with a county-by-county approach.
- **SB10-100, Cross-Boundary Energy Improvement Districts (Schwartz/Miklosi).** Allows counties that have created a special district and received voter approval to join together in one larger Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) district. It also allows for multi-jurisdictional bonding authority, which means that smaller counties can enter a joint bond transaction with a larger county. This will be helpful for smaller counties that may not otherwise be able to access the bond market.
- **HB10-1333, Green Jobs Colorado Program (Vigil/Schwartz & Newell).** Provides grants to community colleges, vocational schools and other training providers to develop clean-energy job training programs.

- **HB10-1342, Community Solar Gardens (Levy/Williams).** Allows fractionally owned solar farms within investor-owned utility service territories. This allows renters, homeowners and businesses without solar access to own a portion of a solar farm. The legislation also directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules under which this program will be managed. A ‘Solar Garden’ is 2 MW or smaller, owned by 10 or more customers, and located in the same county that the co-owners reside.
- **HB10-1349, Renewable Electricity for Parks (Fischer & Pace/Schwartz & Tapia).** Establishes a goal for State Parks that by 2020 as much electricity is produced from renewable energy sources as the agency consumes on an annual basis.
- **HB 10-1418, Community-Based Renewable Energy Projects (McFadyen/Sonnenberg & Bacon).** Encourages development of rural renewable energy projects, particularly in Rural Electric Association and municipal utility service territories.
- **SB10-019, Property Tax on New Hydro-Electricity Facilities (Schwartz/Fischer).** Encourages small hydro-electric projects by lowering the upfront costs
- **SB10-174, Promote Geothermal Energy Development (Schwartz/Massey & Scanlan).** Encourages the development of geothermal energy as a clean-energy source.
- **SB10-177, Promote Biomass Energy Development (Schwartz/Scanlan).** Helps incentivize biomass energy development through tax incentives, credits and other approaches
- **SB10-180, Colorado Smart Grid Task Force (Williams/Kerr).** Creates an 11-member task force to gather information and report to the legislature and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on issues related to the implementation of a smart energy grid in Colorado.
- **SB10-207, Financing State Energy Efficiency Projects (Johnston/Romer).** Authorizes the issuance of an aggregated lease-purchase agreement to finance capital construction projects that improve the energy efficiency and reduce costs of state buildings or facilities. Annual lease payments would be paid through the utility cost savings.